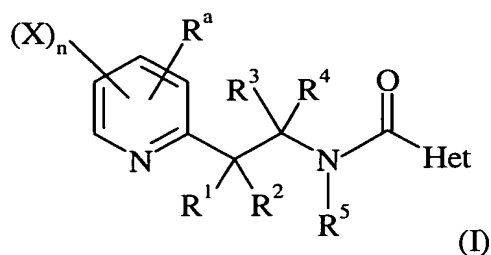


LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A compound of general formula (I)



in which :

- n is 1, 2 or 3;
- R^a is a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms;
- each substituent X is chosen, independently of the others, as being a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C₁-C₆-alkyl or a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl;
- R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are chosen, independently of the others as being a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a sulfanyl group, a formyl group, a formyloxy group, a formylamino group, a carboxy group, a carbamoyl group, a N-hydroxycarbamoyl group, a carbamate group, a (hydroxyimino)-C₁-C₆-alkyl group, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₂-C₆-alkenyl, a C₂-C₆-alkynyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylamino, a di-C₁-C₆-alkylamino, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfanyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulfanyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₂-C₆-alkenyloxy, a C₂-C₆-halogenoalkenyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₆-alkynyloxy, a C₃-C₆-halogenoalkynyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, a C₃-C₆-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbamoyl, a di-C₁-C₆-alkylcarbamoyl, a N-C₁-C₆-alkyloxycarbamoyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbamoyl, a N-C₁-C₆-alkyl-C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbamoyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl having 1

to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonylamino, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylcarbonylamino having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a di-C₁-C₆-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₆-alkyloxycarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulphenyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulphenyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulphinyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulphinyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulphonyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulphonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a benzyl, a benzyloxy, a benzylsulfanyl, a benzylsulfinyl, a benzylsulfonyl, a benzylamino, a phenoxy, a phenylsulfanyl, a phenylsulfinyl, a phenylsulfonyl, a phenylamino, a phenylcarbonylamino, a 2,6 dichlorophenyl-carbonylamino group or a phenyl group; or R¹ and R² may form together a cyclopropyl, a cyclobutyl, a cyclopentyl or a cyclohexyl;

with the proviso that when three of the four substituents R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are a hydrogen atom, then the fourth substituent is not a hydrogen atom;

- R⁵ is chosen as being a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a formyl group, a hydroxy group, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, a C₃-C₆-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₂-C₆-alkenyl, a C₂-C₆-alkynyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-cyanoalkyl, a C₁-C₆-aminoalkyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylamino-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a di-C₁-C₆-alkylamino-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkyloxycarbonyl, a C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl, a C₃-C₇-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-benzyloxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy-C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl or a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulfonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms; and

- Het represents a 5-, 6- or 7-membered non-fused heterocycle with one, two or three heteroatoms which may be the same or different, Het being linked by a carbon atom and being at least substituted in ortho position;

as well as its salts, N-oxydes, metallic complexes, metalloidic complexes and optically active isomers.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, characterised in that n is 1 or 2.

3. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterised in that X is a halogen atom.

4. (Original) A compound according to claim 3, characterised in that X is chlorine.

5. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterised in that R^a is -CF₃.

6. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, characterised in that the 2-pyridyl is substituted in 3- and/or in 5-position.

7. (Original) A compound according to claim 6, characterised in that the 2-pyridyl is substituted in 3-position by X and in 5-position by R^a.

8. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, characterised in that the 2-pyridyl is substituted in 3-position by -Cl and in 5-position by -CF₃.

9. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, characterised in that R¹ and R² are chosen, independently of each other, as being a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₂-C₆-alkenyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfanyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfenyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfinyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonylamino, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonylamino or a phenyl group.

10. (Original) A compound according to claim 9, characterised in that R¹ and R² are chosen, independently of each other, as being a halogen atom, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms or a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonylamino.

11. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, characterised in that R³ and R⁴ are chosen, independently of each other, as being a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonylamino or a phenyl group.

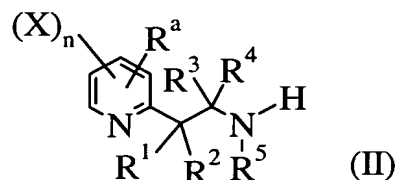
12. (Original) A compound according to claim 11, characterised in that R³ and R⁴ are chosen, independently of each other, as being a halogen atom, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms or a phenyl group.

13. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, characterised in that R⁵ is a hydrogen atom or a C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl.

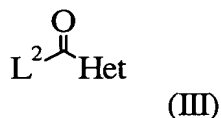
14. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1, characterised in that Het is a five membered ring heterocycle.

15. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1, characterised in that Het is a six membered ring heterocycle.

16. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of general formula (I) as defined in ~~any of the claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1, which comprises reacting a 2-pyridine derivative of general formula (II) or one of its salt :



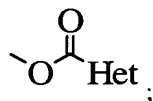
~~in which X, n, R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are as in any of the preceding claims;~~
with a carboxylic acid derivative of the general formula (III)



in which :

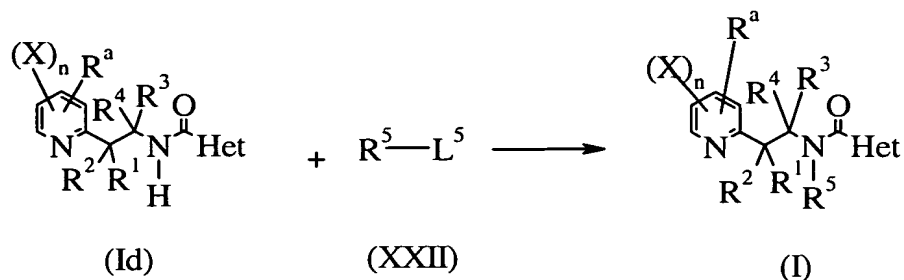
~~-Het is as defined in any of the preceding claims; and~~

- L² is a leaving group chosen as being a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, -OR⁶, -OCOR⁶, R⁶ being a C₁-C₆ alkyl, a C₁-C₆ haloalkyl, a benzyl, 4-methoxybenzyl, pentafluorophenyl or a group of formula



in the presence of a catalyst and, if L² is a hydroxyl group, in the presence of a condensing agent.

17. (Original) A process according to claim 16, characterised in that R⁵ is a hydrogen atom and that the process is completed by a further step according to the following reaction scheme :



in which :

~~-R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, X, n and Het are as defined in any of the claims 1 to 15;~~

- L⁵ is a leaving group chosen as being a halogen atom, a 4-methyl phenylsulfonyloxy or a methylsulfonyloxy;

comprising the reaction of a compound of general formula (Id) with a compound of general formula (XXII) to provide a compound of general formula (I).

18. (Currently amended) A fungicidal composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1 and an agriculturally acceptable support.

19. (Original) A method for preventively or curatively combating the phytopathogenic fungi of crops, characterised in that an effective and non-phytotoxic amount of a composition according to claim 18 is applied to the plant seeds or to the plant leaves and/or to the fruits of the plants or to the soil in which the plants are growing or in which it is desired to grow them.